GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:817
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
DERAILMENT OF TRAINS
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been many derailment of passenger trains mainly attributed to faulty wheels;

(b) if so, the details of derailments of trains due to faulty wheels reported during each of the last two years;

(c) whether the Government is considering any proposal to adopt high cost technology to identify hairline fractures in the wheels and axles of bogies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure to be incurred thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.817 BY SHRI P.S. GADHAVI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 28.07.2005 REGARDING DERAILMENT OF TRAINS.

(a): No, Sir.

(b): During 2003-2004 four derailments to passenger trains took place due to defects in wheels. During 2004-2005 only one such derailment took place.

(c) & (d): Railway have upgraded the specification for coaching wheels to include fracture toughness so that the crack propagation is reduced. Manufacturers of wheels for coaches have already installed on-line ultrasonic testing and magnetic particle testing to detect hairline cracks on newly manufactured wheels. To identify the cracks in axles during service, ultrasonic test of axles i s also done during workshop attention.

Railways are now making efforts to develop on-line ultrasonic testing of wheel discs to identify the cracks in service. For this purpose, Phase Array Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors is being considered. The cost of one such equipment (Phase Array Ultrasonic Flaw Detector) including installation is approximately Rs.one crore.